

Football Premiership: Newcastle 1 Arsenal 2

Arsenal silence Keegan's guns

David Lacey
THEY were only playing leapfrog, one of the Western Front's more ironic numbers...

four, there is every chance of a memorable finish.
It will be surprising, however, if any other team quite captures the heroic undertones...

guard action against a Newcastle attack containing Milburn, Mitchell and the Robledo brothers...



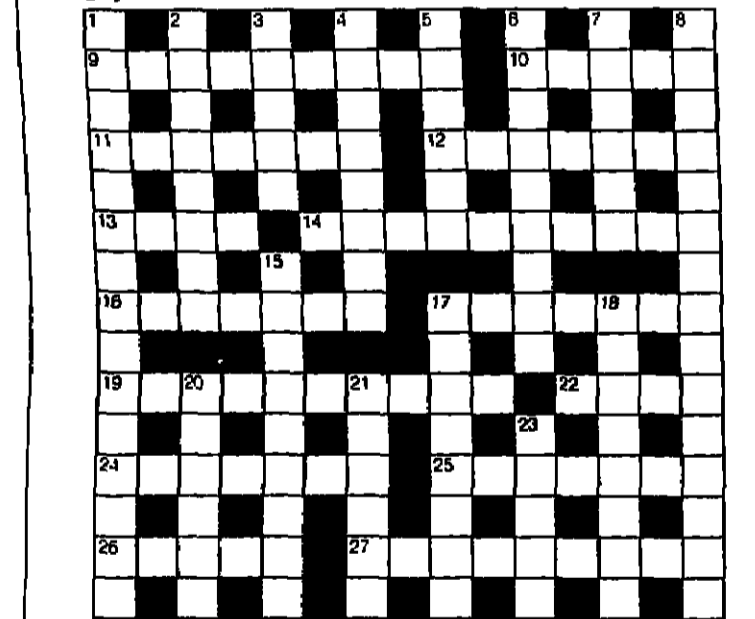
Vol 155, No 24
Week ending December 15, 1996

Football results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 2, Newcastle 1; Man City 1, Liverpool 1; Aston Villa 1, Tottenham 0...

BELL'S SCOTTLISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aberdeen 0, Rangers 3; Celtic 2, Hearts 2...

Cryptic crossword by Rufus



Across
9 This may point out a direction - but not East (9)
10 There's nothing sour in this scent (5)

- 5 You may put your foot in it, in a manner of speaking (6)
6 Cynthia takes a liking to alcohol (8)
7 Cash or credit? (6)
8 Pash for inspiration (9,6)
15 An unfair comparison (4,2,3)
17 Right to succeed (4,4)
18 Poor ending it might make (9)
20 Holiday when one is not at one's best (3,3)
21 Outstanding work of art (6)
23 Humphrey's artless look to us appears phoney (5)

No final since the Davis Cup's inception in 1900 had previously been decided in the fifth set of the final rubber...

Last week's solution
BUCKLER BANDPIT
TARJ A B O U E
TAROT BEATHLON
T C H R I U L L D
G R E E N T R U C T U R E
B M R H J I P R
L A S H S T A N D O F F
A T M R Y Q N O
C H A R A D E S N E R O
K E N V I T F S T
Q E T D O W T O B R A S S
U I R D O O O R
A B A S E M E N T T A C K S
R T B E R O D H K E P
D R E S S E R O D Y B S E Y

Tennis Davis Cup final
French have last word

Stephen Blaber in Malmö
THERE are places in this country where the sun never sets, and there were times here last Sunday when it seemed the Davis Cup final would never end...

could have fought no braver fight, and true to himself he brought the evening to a close with a gracious and winning smile.
It was a day of withering physical and emotional fluctuations. This was the tennis equivalent of snakes and ladders. It was impossible, in the end, even to hazard a guess as to who might win either match...

The Guardian Weekly

Farmers hold Greece to ransom

Helena Smith
THE farmers manning the barricade at the Artemisian tunnel on the Corinth-Tripoli highway...



Black flag of protest... A farmer uses his tractor to create a motorway blockade near Athens

This week only a few farmers were actually working the fields. The rest were maintaining roadblocks round the country in protest against the ruling socialist's tough fiscal policies...

Tory turmoil over fast-track Europe

Ian Traynor in Nuremberg, Sarah Ryle and Michael White
FRANCE and Germany fuelled John Major's political turmoil on Monday as they spelled out their determination to seek faster progress on European integration...

EU finance ministers were to meet in Dublin on Thursday, on the eve of the EU summit, in an attempt to cobble together a deal on the terms for joining the single currency. Mr Kohl said France and Germany hoped to table a joint proposal on the stability pact.

Generals call for an end to nuclear weapons

David Fairhall
FIELD MARSHAL Lord Carver, a "Desert Rat" who rose to Britain's chief of defence staff, last week joined more than 60 generals and admirals worldwide calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons...

who evidently share Field Marshal Carver's belief that having a nuclear deterrent is riskier than not having one.
Their statement, published in London, proposes three immediate moves to take advantage of the ending of the cold war: further large cuts in nuclear stockpiles, taking those that remain gradually off alert...

Row looms on US maize trade

nuclear armaments "are not susceptible to deterrence or are simply not credible".
The generals conclude: "The end of the cold war makes it possible. The dangers of proliferation, terrorism and a new nuclear arms race render it necessary."

The US said this week that Nato would not station nuclear weapons on the territory of new members it plans to admit from central and eastern Europe.

Table with columns for country and currency exchange rates. Includes entries for Milosevic, Clinton's cabinet, Trade summit, and various countries like Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Redd Barna is a Norwegian membership organisation which is politically neutral and non sectarian. Redd Barna aims to develop increased insight into children's needs and promote their rights.

Resident Representative Nicaragua

Redd Barna has worked in Nicaragua since 1987. The programme comprises professional and financial support to organisations that work for children and their rights.

As our Resident Representative terminates her contract in June 1997, we now seek to replace her. The Resident Representative will have the overall responsibility for planning, implementing, follow-up and further development of Redd Barna Nicaragua's activities.

Further information may be obtained from Karl Thomassen or Alna Bergstrom, tel. 47 22 08 16 00, fax 47 22 08 17 40. Applications with CV, certificates and testimonials should be sent to: Redd Barna, Personnel & Org. Dept, P.O. Box 6200 Etterstad, N-0802 Oslo before January 15, 1997.



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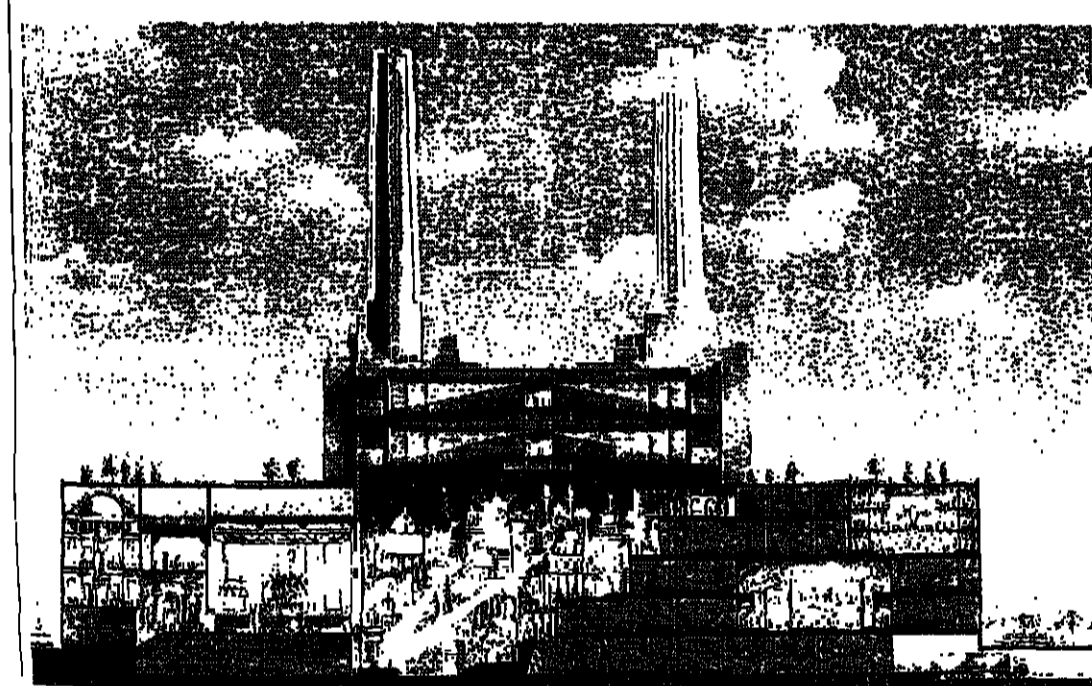
Closing date for applications 10 January 1997. The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is an equal opportunities employer.



Battersea set for a rollercoaster ride

Clare Longrigg

THE vast towers of Battersea power station, London's best-loved derelict industrial site, have stood guard over the gaping ruin of the building since 1982.



A cutaway illustration by the developers of how Battersea power station could look by 2000

and retail centre, with a multiplex cinema and a number of themed restaurants, has already been accepted by Wandsworth council. Plans have been circumscribed by the building's Grade II listing, which means that many original features have to be preserved.

Letter from Argentina Chris Moss

On the open range

PROVINCIAL Argentines are quick to dissociate themselves from the capital. You needn't go further than the province of Buenos Aires, which lies dead flat around the city for 800km south and west.

and summer. The gaucho's farming is of the observer variety. What urbanites consider his innate sloth is a natural result of the environment and the dreariness of daily tasks — an occasional tricky pregnancy, a cow sick but of so little value that a vet is not worth the trouble.

Notes & Queries Joseph Harker

A PART from Summer Holiday, which is the worst song ever recorded?

TIPTOE Through The Tulips, performed in ghastly falsetto by the late Tiny Tim. — David Lewis, Preussin-Moens, France

IT HAS to be Mouldy Old Dough by Lieutenant Pigeon. These seventies misfits were so far removed from pop performers of the day that they even had one of the band's mothers on keyboards! — Norman Morrison, Peterborough

KENNY EVERETT several years ago invited listeners to vote for the worst record ever. Lung-Haired Lover From Liverpool by Little Jimmy Osmond was beaten into second place by The Shifting Whispering Sands sung, or rather intoned, by Cannon Andrews.

THIS PULLOVER by Jess Conrad would be my nomination. This pullover that you gave to me/ I am wearing and wear it constantly./ Soft and warming like your love for me/ it was made, dear, like you were made for me, and so on...

ALLEGRO, Astra, Capri, Cortina, Fiesta, Mini, Viva. What is the marketing theory which dictates that virtually every British post-war car has to have a name ending with a vowel?

I WAS intrigued to note that the English language is still evolving, and that Fred Brooks (December 8) has decided that "e" — as at the end of Alpine and Cambridge — is no longer a vowel. — Pat Charnock, Harringay, London

PAUSING only to don my anorak, I listed every model in the A to Z of new cars (What Car, November 1996), ignoring derivatives such as estate or coupé.

ianates, including Nexia, Ibiza (and Mini) total 52. A fourth category, the genuinely Italian products of Maserati and Fiat, totals seven. — Trig Ellis, Chesterfield

A GOOGOL is 10¹⁰⁰ (1 followed by 100 zeros). Can there possibly be a googol of anything in the universe?

MATHEMATICS And The Imagination by Edward Kasner and James Newman (Bell & Sons, 1949) states that, although the total number of electrons in the universe (10 to the power of 79) is less than a googol, the total possible moves in a game of chess (10 to the power of 10 to the power of 50) is considerably larger than a googol.

Any answers?

DOES a grasshopper have any control over where it lands after a hop? — Mark Miller, Witham, Essex

In Jerome K Jerome's Two Men On The Bummel, a reference is made to Tom and Jerryism. Since this predates the cartoon, who were Tom and Jerry? — Roy Williamson, Kilsnoe, Staffordshire

ARE there "will-o'-the-wisp" ever seen these days? How does self-combustion of the methane take place. — Ivor Stott, Fraz, Wintborne, Dorset

BY PERCENTAGE, which mass-produced consumer item shows the greatest difference between cost of manufacture and sale price? — Gerard Mackay, Nesscliffe, Shropshire

Answers should be e-mailed to weekly@guardian.co.uk, faxed to 0171 441 71 242-0985, or posted to The Guardian Weekly, 75 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3HU. There is a Notes & Queries web site at http://go2.guardian.co.uk/nq/

A Country Diary

Richard Mabey
CHILTERNs: Three hard, successive night frosts had roused the air clear of mist, and the canal lay as still and sharp as a pane of glass.

competing birds mimicking their moves under the water? Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a flock of starlings dropping out of the sky. They free-fell maybe 15m in perfect formation, their wings glittering as the trailing edges refracted the low sun.

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Goods for some are bad for others

Ministers meeting at this week's world trade summit are discussing how to ease restrictions. It is a course that will ruin yet more lives, argues **Kevin Watkins**

DOES mention of the World Trade Organisation make your eyelids heavy? Well, it's time to wake up. Behind that dense fog of trade jargon, the environment, your rights as a consumer, and those of the world's poorest people are under attack.

All this week, trade ministers from more than 100 countries have been meeting in Singapore for the first WTO ministerial summit. The aim is to chart a course for trade into the 21st century and to accelerate the creation of a global market free of trade restrictions. The outcome will affect everyone's life.

Every time we buy fruit in a supermarket, or purchase a shirt or television, we are engaging in trade; and we are taking decisions which affect the environment and link us to producers in developing countries. The problem is that our ability to make informed and responsible choices about how we trade is circumscribed by WTO rules.

At the core of these rules is an apparently innocuous legal distinction between traded products and "processing and production methods". Governments are entitled to use trade restrictions against products on scientifically established health grounds, but cannot limit imports because of social or environmental concerns over the way they are produced.

This approach evolved from a 1991 ruling, in which a WTO panel overturned a US prohibition on imports of tuna from countries whose fleets used methods, such as purse

seine net fishing, which kill large numbers of dolphins. It was a preposterous ruling, in effect outlawing the use of any trade measures to protect the environment or to conserve species.

For a glimpse at its implications, take a look at Mexico's *maquiladora* zone. Blue-chip American companies such as General Motors, Du Pont and General Electric have relocated some of their most pollution-intensive operations here, partly to escape US environmental legislation. Heavy metals and toxic chemicals have been dumped on a massive scale, turning the region into what the American Medical Association has called "a virtual cesspool and breeding ground for infectious disease". But GM can export its gearboxes to Europe at prices which bear no relation to the human and environmental costs of the production methods.

In a global economy increasingly dominated by transnational companies which can seek to maximise profits by locating production in sites with the weakest social and environmental standards, this is a recipe for disaster.

Even the most myopic trade junky will admit privately that international market prices do not reflect the costs of cutting down forests, polluting waterways, eroding soils, and over-fishing. Yet in contrast to other areas of world trade, where the sale of goods at artificially low prices is forbidden, "ecological dumping", or the sale of commodities at prices below their

real costs of production, is celebrated as a market virtue. You can't sell a colour television at prices below production cost, but you can export mahogany toilet seats from Indonesia at prices which bear no relation to the cost of lost livelihoods, soil erosion, or the loss of species.

New trade rules are needed which recognise the value of the environment, and which permit import controls on goods produced in environmentally damaging circumstances. A WTO social clause to protect basic workers' rights and address the most exploitative forms of child labour should be another step.

Unfortunately, Third World governments at the WTO regard any social and environmental regulation of trade as a protectionist threat to their trade interests. Governments may be motivated by a concern to maximise foreign exchange earnings, but precisely what interest vulnerable communities have in being poisoned by toxic wastes, displaced from their forests, or seeing their fisheries stocks depleted is unclear.

In the industrialised world, too, the WTO's rules permeate our lives to disastrous effect. If, for example, you like your milk without growth hormones, you have a problem, because a WTO panel is about to rule that a European Union ban on the use of bovine somatotropin (BST) — a hormone which raises milk yields by up to 25 per cent — is a breach of international trade law. The case was brought to the WTO by the US government on behalf of Monsanto, a chemicals company which holds the patent for BST and stands to make in excess of \$500

million annually from access to the EU market.

According to Monsanto, there is no scientific evidence of any health risk from BST, so the EU's import ban is really about the method used to produce milk, and therefore a violation of WTO rules. Even though medical research has pointed to BST as a potential risk factor for breast and gastro-intestinal cancers, the WTO does not recognise caution as a legitimate reason to restrain imports.

Perhaps you harbour the hope that food labelling laws will protect your right not to eat foods which you regard, rightly or wrongly, as a threat to your health. After all, consumer sovereignty is supposed to be the governing principle of the free market. Well, forget it. Under the WTO's rules, you have no right to know what is in your food.

As it is, a wide range of environmental and conservation measures won through intensive campaigning are already under threat. A Dutch import ban on fur from animals caught in leg traps has been threatened with action at the WTO by the US and Canada; a US ban on imports of shrimps caught without measures to protect endangered sea turtles has been challenged by Thailand and Singapore, two of the worst offenders; and Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil have threatened recourse to the WTO if industrial countries attempt to restrict imports of unsustainably logged timber.

Against this backdrop, prospects for the WTO summit make depressing viewing. In a world so profoundly threatened by environmental problems, so scarred by poverty, we desperately need new rules and new institutions to govern international trade. People, as well as corporations, have rights.

Kevin Watkins is senior policy adviser for Oxfam

Is Britain following the American path of litigation madness, ask **Jonathan Steele** and **Ian Katz**

Devil's advocates

TWO teenagers at sixth-form colleges plan to sue their old schools for negligence because they fluffed their GCSEs: it sounds like an American-style absurdity, the sort of litigation-gone-mad syndrome which ought never to happen in Britain. Is the country going down the American road towards a lawyer-driven, jackpot-hungry morass of futile complaints of psychological trauma, fuelled by the vague hope that a litigant might persuade a jury to give him or her a compensation bonanza, or at least intimidate the defending party to pay up out of court?

Ironically, the case of the British exam takers may reflect a more aggressive strain of litigiousness than anything seen in American schools. "Things like this were toyed with in the United States 20 years ago, but even at the height of our luniness we never thought it was the appropriate remedy," says Richard Epstein, professor of law at the University of Chicago.

David Strom, legal counsel for the American Federation of Teachers, describes such lawsuits as rare and even more rarely successful: "American courts frown on such cases unless there is a gross indifference that approaches constitutional proportions. You virtually have to show that administrators willingly and knowingly participated in a programme to deprive kids of an education."

British headteachers are already up in arms at the new case, arguing that hundreds of causes can be found why a person does badly in exams, ranging from what a person has for breakfast to the family row which exploded the night before, let alone the plausible possibility that no revision was actually done.

What makes the case particularly extraordinary is that it comes shortly after another milestone of educational litigation in Britain. Last month, the London Borough of Richmond paid £30,000 to a young man, Sebastian Sharp, who claimed he suffered persistent school bullying several years earlier. His solicitor was the same man who now hopes to get money for the GCSE fluffers.

"I have absolutely no sympathy for them," says Michelle Elliott, who runs the anti-bullying charity, Kidscape. Over the past year she has noticed a big jump in the number of parents who ask for the names of solicitors. It started when the House of Lords ruled in July last year that protection from bullying was part of the duty of care which schools had to provide. Until then, duty of care had mainly covered such obvious issues of safety as decent lab equipment, proper fire precautions, and the like.

David McIntosh, a solicitor with 30 years' experience of handling negligence cases, sees the problem as lawyer-driven: they put the clients up to it, not the other way round. It began when lawyers were given the freedom to advertise, about 10 years ago. "It's in the interest of a lawyer to get hold of a new case and bang the drum, and then bring in group actions."

"The claims aren't immensely large, but this means that when cases go forward, they might not be worth defending. If someone gives in — whether a local authority or an



Europe's youth is leading the way in reviving minority languages

Celts reverse the tide of history

While England sulks, a revival of Gaelic culture is sweeping the British Isles and the rest of Europe, reports **Cal McCrystal**

A SUSTAINED resurgence of Celtic languages is giving the lie to those who claimed that the European Union would inevitably produce a homogenised culture throughout the British Isles. Even in divided Northern Ireland, an increasing number of Protestant loyalists are learning Gaelic, turning to the Scottish version of the language for inspiration.

The Celtic revival sweeping Wales, Scotland and both parts of Ireland is remarkable for several reasons. It appears not to be identified with nationalist movements. Its ethos is ultra-modern — it is dominated by youth and encouraged in infancy. Its voice is self-assured, topical and unselfish. It has shown itself capable of surmounting territorial and religious barriers. Most of all, it is heartily pro-European.

In Scotland the "huge upsurge" of interest in Gaelic has created a temporary shortage of teachers. Donald MacSweeney, chief executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach (the Gaelic Association), says that within 25 years Scotland will have "well over 100,000 fluent Gaelic speakers" compared with the 60,000 recorded by the 1991 census. In Wales, about a third of the population now has "some understanding" of Welsh Gaelic, says Hugh Jones, who runs the Welsh-language S4C television. Since the station came on air 14 years ago, the proportion of children between the ages of three and 15 who speak Welsh has increased from 18 per cent to 24 per cent.

But it is in Ireland — long thought to have given up on what remains, officially, the state language — that the resurgence is most marked. In November a new terrestrial television channel, *Telifís na Gaeilge*, began transmission, sometimes using subtitles to draw in audiences. Its staff has an average age of 27. It pumps out soap operas, pre-school programmes, news, sports and music in a way that would have been anathema to an older generation of Gaelic defenders. Gaelic watchers in all three countries — and in Cornwall and Brit-

tany — are maintaining a dialogue, trying out each other's ideas to keep up the momentum of the revival. All are unanimous that the promotion of their minority languages will bring economic benefits as well as new cultural pride.

Elen Rhys, director of the Cardiff-based language organisation *Acen* (Accent), reports: "Not long ago there were two or three translation agencies in Wales to assist companies and individuals to do business here. Today the number runs into three figures."

In Ireland, Gaelic had come to be associated with aggressive nationalism and priestly power. In 1904 an education commissioner in British-ruled Ireland wrote to Douglas Hyde, founder of the language-promoting Gaelic League: "I will use all my influence to ensure that Irish as a spoken language shall die out as quickly as possible."

He was not entirely successful. When three Irish provinces and a bit of the fourth gained independence from Britain in 1921, the new state made Irish the first language. Twenty-two years later, an influential Dublin literary magazine, the *Bell*, editorialised: "We treasure Gaelic for one outstanding reason — that... it is the one solitary remnant of living tradition that links us back to the centuries behind our breaking." Having said that, the *Bell* tolled dismally: "The Gaeltacht [Irish-speaking areas], the language, the Revival, everything that was so honoured and so nourishing, is now a bitter taste, sometimes positively nauseating."

The magazine said the authorities were ramming Gaelic down throats, rather than coaxing it; another difficulty was that Gaelic in Ireland — as in Scotland — was associated with defeat, starvation and impotence.

In 1963 a prominent Irish sociologist, E F O'Doherty, predicted: "The fear that we may be lost as a cultural or political entity in the world of the future is only too well grounded if our thinking is that we must resist or resent change and merely preserve the past."

The call for change carried echoes of the Scottish poet Hugh MacDiarmid, who sought a "Gaelic idea" that would be a modern answer to "the quasi-genocidal destruction of Gaelic culture in Scotland". In Ireland, Wales and Scotland, language enthusiasts be-

Blast-off heralds new era in Mars exploration

A NASA spacecraft with a robot rover on board began a 310 million-mile journey to Mars last week, after two false starts, writes **Tim Kadford**.

The Mars Pathfinder lander — the second United States probe in a month — is due to float down by parachute and bounce gently to rest on airbags on the surface of the Red Planet on July 4, 1997. It will be the first visit for 21 years, since the *Viking* lander probes made an initial tentative exploration of Mars and pronounced it dead.

This time things are different. NASA's instruments are designed to detect evidence of water, and therefore proof of at least bygone life. Since August, scientists in the US and Britain believe they have identified circumstantial evidence of microbial life in at least two separate Martian meteorites of wildly different ages.

Martian exploration has a long history — the Soviet Union launched its first attempt in 1960 — but now the stakes are higher.

Russia's latest attempt, which was to have been the second of three shots at Mars in a month, crashed in the Pacific with several British experiments on board on November 18. The first of the series, Mars Global Surveyor, was a new version of NASA's Mars Observer, which suddenly went silent as it reached Mars in 1992.

With precedents like these, Nasa

has taken no chances. It delayed a launch on Monday last week because of the weather, and on Tuesday because of a computer glitch.

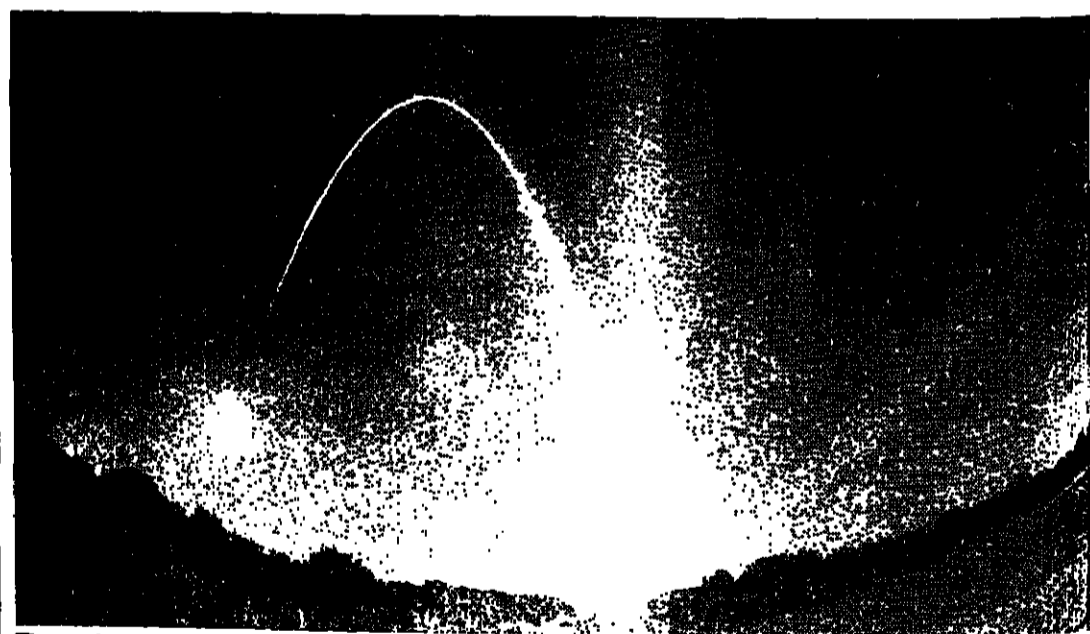
Even when the mission shot out of Earth's orbit and tilted towards a Martian rendezvous at 23,000mph on Wednesday, Pathfinder had one potential problem, however: low voltage on a navigation device.

Although the last of the launches this year, it will be the first to arrive. After landing petals of the spacecraft will unfold, two ramps will slide down, and a six-wheeled, 10kg rover called Sojourner will beech down and begin examining the nearby rocks, relaying information back to Earth. Two months later the Global Surveyor will arrive and begin a series of orbits around the Red Planet.

After it enters the thin Martian atmosphere, the onboard computer will pay out a large parachute. Then about 100 metres above the surface airbags will inflate and the spacecraft will bounce to rest on what scientists believe is a rocky plain.

Japan will launch its *Planet B* mission to Mars in 1998. There will be one more Nasa surveyor and one more lander, followed possibly by two more landers on the Martian ice cap in 1999. More missions are planned by Nasa after 2000.

The ultimate goal, announced years ago by President George Bush, who conspicuously failed to announce any funds for the project, is a human landing on Mars.



The rocket carrying Nasa's probe lifts off from Cape Canaveral

Riddle of the Martian 'Face'

TWENTY years ago, the Viking missions produced tantalising images of the surface of Mars, including the notorious "Face of Cydonia".

Planetary scientists called it an "artefact" — a trick of light and angle. UFO-watchers firmly believed otherwise. They saw the face, and other features mapped by Viking, as evidence of an ancient civilisation on Mars, perhaps wiped out in the cataclysm which stripped away the Martian oceans and atmosphere.

For 20 years scientists have

shaken their heads. All the evidence from the Viking mission showed that Mars was dead and inhospitable to life.

But this view has changed. In the past 10 years biologists have been finding microbial life in improbable, and even what were once thought impossible, places on Earth — deep in the darkest abysses of the oceans, at very high temperatures in volcanic vents, in lakes of sulphuric acid and alkaline swamps, and at crushing pressures deep in the Earth's crust. Serious scientists

talked of the possibility of bygone life surviving on Mars — if there was water.

In August, and again in October, United States and British scientists identified evidence of microbial life in meteorites known to have come from Mars. The Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor missions are not looking specifically for life, but for evidence of water, now in the past.

Neither craft will be looking for traces of vanished civilisations — but if the Mars orbiter camera catches the Face of Cydonia, it will relay the picture to Earth.

